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# REGION OF FIORDS AND FORESTS;

3a NATURE UNCHANGED:



Alaska Brown Bear

## TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Region 10

## Community Recreation Areas

Many areas have been developed by the Forest Service for picnic use, swimming, and other forms of outdoor recreation. Among these are Ward Lake out of Ketchikan, Falls Creek near Petersburg, Mendenhall Valley and Auke Village on Glacier Highway north of Juneau, and the Ski Bowl above Douglas. Improvements include community buildings, picnic shelters and fireplaces, bathhouses, and ski huts. Short but highly scenic motor roads lead out from the principal communities to places of interest in the surrounding primitive lands.

Numerous interesting week-end cottages, built by local residents on sites leased from the Forest Service, dot the shore line near the towns.



## Pleasure Cruising

A leisurely trip in a comfortable, small power launch will disclose new vistas every few miles, all within sheltered waters.



Cruising Among Old Totems



## Wildlife

Hunters with gun and camera visit this area for the purpose of hunting or viewing the big game, principally the Alaska brown bear, the largest of all carnivorous land animals, and his close kinsman and rival in popular interest, the grizzly. Wildlife of great abundance and variety populate the hills, valleys, and waters of this frontier land. Sensible game-management practices guarantee the perpetuation in large numbers of the game and fur bearers here. Permits to hunt and fish and copies of the applicable laws can be obtained from the Fish and Wildlife Service at Juneau, or at its offices in most of the other towns of the region.

The Alaska brown bear is found on the coastal mainland and on Admiralty, Baranof, and Chichagof Islands, and the grizzly along the coast range of the mainland. Black bear are distributed throughout the region except on the large brown bear islands; moose on the valley floors of the Unuk, Stikine, and Taku Rivers; mountain goat throughout the high section of the mainland; Sitkan deer as far north as Glacier Bay, principally on the islands. Fur bearers include beaver, mink, marten, land otter, weasel, fox, wolverine, muskrat, and marmot. Native upland game birds are the sooty and ruffed grouse, the rare Richardson grouse, and three varieties of ptarmigan. The waterfowl are migratory ducks and geese of many species.

## Admiralty Island Wilderness

The middle section of Admiralty Island contains a group of beautiful lakes ranging in size from very small to several square miles. It is a real wilderness area with only trails, portages, row-boats, and simple shelter cabins for the use of visitors. It offers excellent fishing, glimpses of big brown bear and deer, boating, picture taking, nature study, and mountain climbing. Here the visitor can experience typical southeast Alaska conditions; his outing, as he chooses, can be restful or strenuous. The focal point of the Admiralty Island recreation area is Camp Sha-heen on a lake 12 miles in length, the largest of the Admiralty Island lakes. Trails lead from tidewater to this area, but most visitors prefer to take the 25-minute ride by chartered seaplane from Juneau. Sha-heen camp has an attractive log cabin equipped with all essential camp equipment, such as stove, utensils, and bunks. This cabin is open to the public without charge.



Fishing is a Major Sport

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## Foreword

The small-scale map on the reverse side covers an area approximately 350 miles long and 120 miles wide, with a total shore line of about 9,000 miles. The map gives but a faint indication of the many islands, and the maze of narrow, sheltered fiords, straits, inlets, channels, canals, and bays which constitute south-east Alaska and the Tongass National Forest. Here is a vast forested area estimated to contain  $78\frac{1}{2}$  billion board feet of commercial timber, with western hemlock and Sitka spruce predominating.

Items of keen interest to the tourist and the outdoor recreationist are the green, forested slopes and whitecapped mountains along the steamer lanes; the long, narrow fiords extending back from the wider waterways into the heart of the rugged granite ranges of Alaska's mainland; the tidewater glaciers winding down the valleys and discharging icebergs into the sea; "hanging lakes" in basins excavated by glacial action and the high waterfalls which spill from them; the seasonal run of spawning salmon from the sea into the fresh-water streams; the Alaska Indians, with their curious totems; the varied and plentiful wildlife; and the interesting setting and historical background of the coastal towns.



## Resorts

Taku Lodge is located at the mouth of Taku River a few miles from Juneau in the midst of excellent scenery, big game hunting, and fishing. Bell Island Hot Springs near Ketchikan is an all-year resort. Good hotels are available in the larger towns. Launches and pontoon

airplanes can be chartered for sight-seeing, hunting, and fishing trips into all parts of the region.



### **Salt-Water Fishing**

Trolling and "strip" fishing are sports that have taken firm hold here. "Strip" fishing consists of drawing the line in short arm lengths over the hand holding the pole as the bait is being drawn to the surface. The prevailing lure is a strip from the side of a herring but other lures such as plugs and spoons are finding favor. The most popular equipment, comparatively inexpensive and obtainable at local stores, is a 10-ounce rod, 35-pound test line, 15-pound leaders, spinning hooks, and a heavy reel. Almost any channel where salmon run is a good fishing spot. Landing a 30-pound king salmon or 15-pound coho is a thrilling experience.



### **Fresh-Water Fishing**

Clear mountain streams and lakes plentifully stocked with trout are found everywhere. The important species are cutthroat, rainbow, steelhead in season, and Dolly Varden. The Forest Service has built trails and overnight shelter cabins in connection with most of the favored fishing spots and maintains light cedar skiffs on many of the lakes.



### **Winter Sports**

Winter recreation facilities have been constructed by the Forest Service adjacent to the larger communities. These include ski trails and jumps, slalom and downhill courses, and skating facilities.







U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
ALASKA  
TONGASS  
NATIONAL FOREST  
RECREATION MAP

SCALE - IN MILES  
0 5 10 20 30 40 50 60

— National Forest Boundary  
- - - International Boundary  
..... Glacier Bay National Monument  
— Roads - - - Trails

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